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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/560,234	04/28/2000	Nobuyuki Takamori	49799(801)	3999

21874 7590 07/28/2003

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EXAMINER

CAO, ALLEN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2652

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2003

18

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/560,234

Applicant(s)

TAKAMORI ET.AL.

Examiner

Allen T Cao

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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1. The restriction mailed on 11/5/02 and the NON-Final Office Action mailed on 2/19/03 have been withdrawn; there is a new restriction as follows:

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-3 and 7-12, drawn to a disk cartridge including loading apparatus, classified in class 369, subclass 77.1.
- II. Claims 13-17, drawn to a disk cartridge, classified in class 369, subclass 291.
- III. Claims 4-6, drawn to a disk cartridge, classified in class 369, subclass 77.2

3. Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as a "notch" located on a side face of the cartridge face; a counterbore formed in a recess form on an inside wall on the side opposite to the side where a drive shaft for rotating the optical disk is inserted; dimension of the inside optical disc, and a pawl of the shutter, etc... which are not disclosed in the invention Group II. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

4. Inventions I and III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as a "notch" located on a side face of the cartridge face; a counterbore formed in a

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recess form on an inside wall on the side opposite to the side where a drive shaft for rotating the optical disk is inserted; dimension of the inside optical disc, and a pawl of the shutter, etc... which are not disclose in the invention Group III. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

5. Inventions II and III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention II has separate utility such as a **“first opening and a second opening”** on **“upper”** and **“lower face”** thereof, the openings allowing approach of recording and reproducing means; “an edge of the second opening region with the first opening region”; “an edge of the second shutter region With the first shutter region”, etc... which are not disclose in the invention Group III. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

6. Inventions II and I are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention II has separate utility such as a **“first opening and a second opening”** on **“upper”** and **“lower face”** thereof, the openings allowing approach of recording and reproducing means; “an edge of the second opening region with the first opening region”; “an edge of the second shutter region With the first shutter region”, etc... which are not disclose in the invention Group I. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

7. Inventions III and I are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are

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shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention III has separate utility such as a recess or protrusion in the cartridge and a recess or protrusion in the optical disk so that the degree of freedom in a radial direction of the optical disk is defined by the corresponding recess and protrusion which is not disclosed in the invention Group I. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

8. Inventions III and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention III has separate utility such as a recess or protrusion in the cartridge and a recess or protrusion in the optical disk so that the degree of freedom in a radial direction of the optical disk is defined by the corresponding recess and protrusion which is not disclosed in the invention Group II. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

9. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Groups II and III, and the search required for Group II is not required for Group III restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

10. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

11. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim

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remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen T Cao whose telephone number is (703) 305-3796. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs (7:30 - 6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa T Nguyen can be reached on (703) 305-9687. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7201 for regular communications and (703) 305-7201 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750.



Allen Cao
Primary Examiner

AC
July 27, 2003